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March 2010

Montana Tribal Communities Share in \$3.7 Million in Renewable Energy Project Grants

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar recently announced that the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development has awarded \$3.7 million to tribes that are developing renewable energy resources for their communities. Access to these resources will allow these communities to develop jobs and additional economic opportunities on their reservations, while decreasing their reliance on fossil fuels.

Among the successful projects, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Reservation was awarded \$260,000 for a hydroelectric project. Hydroelectric technology takes advantage of the energy created from falling water (see sidebar, page 2.)

"This President has made the development of renewable energy in America one of his highest priorities," Salazar said. "Many tribes are in a unique position to benefit greatly

from a variety of renewable energy sources and the Department is committed to helping these communities to achieve this goal."

The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, in partnership with the Office of Trust Services in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has identified 13 tribes, including CSKT, that have significant potential for quickly developing biomass, geothermal, or hydroelectric energy on their reservations.

Salazar noted that tribal communities have shown exceptional interest in renewable energy development.

"This attests to the tribes' desire to use their available energy resources for the benefit of its members," he said. "It also indicates the willingness of tribes to help America reduce our dependence on foreign energy resources through domestic production."

In addition to gaining

access to the energy itself, all of these projects would also provide job opportunities for reservation residents. "The Department's Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development is working hand-in-hand with tribes to provide technical assistance for energy, mineral, and economic development on reservations," said Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Larry EchoHawk. "The Office is using innovative and collaborative approaches to improve economic opportunities for the tribes, including renewable energy development, and to help promote new jobs, new businesses, and new capital on tribal lands."

The proposed projects were identified by the individual tribes, which developed comprehensive proposals that were evaluated by the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development under a competitive process.

See page 2 for the full list of tribes, resources and award amounts.

*"We are like tenant farmers chopping down the fence around our house for fuel when we should be using Nature's inexhaustible sources of energy — sun, wind and tide. ... I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that."
— Thomas Edison*

Hydropower in Montana

Harnessing the energy in falling water is nothing new to Montanans. Early small-scale hydro projects pumped water for irrigation and mining, turned sawmill blades, and generated electricity for remote farms, homesteads and factories.

On a larger scale, beginning in the late 1800s, dams built on the Missouri River supplied power to hoist ore from mine shafts, to compress air for lead and copper smelters and to power electric lights for growing cities.

Although most large-scale sites have now been developed, the small-scale hydro potential of the state's many rivers and streams is still untapped.

Small-scale hydro includes projects with a generating capacity between 100 kilowatts and 1 or 2 megawatts; micro-hydro projects are systems having power outputs of less than 100 kilowatts.

For more information on hydropower, visit www.montanagreenpower.com/other/hydropower.php.



Tribal Renewable Energy Projects . . . (continued from page 1)

The full list of tribes, resources and award amounts is shown below.

Geothermal

- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California - \$350,000
- Benton Paiute Tribe - \$350,000
- Cedarville Rancheria - \$300,000
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe - \$350,000
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe - \$150,000
- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe - \$750,000

Biomass

- Colville Confederated Tribes - \$200,000
- Fond du Lac Reservation - \$250,000
- Oneida Nation - \$250,000
- Ho-Chunk Nation - \$150,000

Hydroelectric

- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Reservation - \$260,000
- Cherokee Nation - \$150,000
- Crow Tribe - Apsáalooke Nation - \$200,000

Mark Your Calendars

Here's a sample of the many upcoming events focusing on energy issues. For a more complete list, see our Events Calendar at <http://montanagreenpower.com/calendar.php>

[SunWize Training Summit for Solar Installers](#)

March 24-25, 2010
Orlando, FL

Two days of intensive technical and business training for solar installers: 16 half-day sessions, four parallel tracks, eligible for NABCEP credits.

[Solar Contractor Dealer Training](#)

April 15-16, 2010
Philadelphia, PA

This two-day, hands-on seminar on becoming a successful solar energy contractor will include technical training on solar design and installation. The seminar is designed for existing solar energy contractors, building contractors, electrical contractors, plumbing contractors and HVAC contractors and for those looking to become a solar energy contractor.

[Wind Farm Design](#)

April 15, 2010
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

A one-day course designed to introduce professionals to the principles of wind farm design and optimization using state of the art design tools. An integrated course leading through the complete process from an understanding of wind flow to optimization and visualization. Investment in an understanding of wind farm design can reduce timelines and costs at the development stages of a project. The course introduces the GH WindFarmer software as a leading tool and attendees will receive a demonstration copy for follow-up use.

Wind Industry Applauds Governors' Wind Energy Coalition Recommendations

The Governors' Wind Energy Coalition has released its 2010 recommendations. "This is the first set of comprehensive wind energy recommendations ever submitted to Congress by a group of the nation's governors," said Rhode Island Governor Donald L. Carcieri. "These recommendations could not be more timely. Congressional action on the energy bill seems to have stalled. It is our hope that these recommendations — and the national bipartisan consensus they represent — will advance the energy deliberations now under way in Congress."

The Governors are calling for the following actions by Congress and the Obama Administration:

- Adopt a national renewable electricity standard.
- Develop new interstate electric transmission system infrastructure as needed to provide access to premier renewable energy resources both onshore and offshore.
- Fully support coastal, deep water, and offshore wind energy technology and transmission research and development.
- Streamline permitting processes for both offshore and onshore wind energy development projects.
- Expand the U.S. Department of Energy's work with the states and the wind industry to accelerate innovation.
- Extend the Treasury Department grant program in lieu of the investment tax credit and adopt a long-term renewable energy tax

production tax credit with provisions to broaden the pool of eligible investors.

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) is praising the recommendations.

"The Governors' recommendations to the President and to Congress show that there is a strong agreement that an interstate transmission infrastructure and Renewable Electricity Standard are needed and welcome from the point of view of the states and not just the national public interest," AWEA CEO Denis Bode said. "The Governors know this because they are on the front lines of the battle to attract manufacturing investment and create jobs, and they see that renewable energy development brings jobs to their states.

Learn more about the Governors' Wind Energy Coalition at <http://www.governorswindenergycoalition.org/>

This newsletter is a monthly feature of the **Montana Green Power website**. The website is funded with Universal System Benefits charges paid by all NorthWestern Energy customers.



Visit the website at www.MontanaGreenPower.com for more information on solar, wind, bioenergy, energy efficiency, and other topics.

Have a renewable energy tip or some news you want to share? Send it info@montanagreenpower.com.

Funding Opportunities: NorthWestern E+ Energy Business Partners Program

Rising energy prices are taking a bigger and bigger bite out of business operating budgets. But there is something you can do to combat these rising costs. By investing in energy efficiency, you can improve the bottom line and help protect your

business from future energy cost increases.

NorthWestern Energy's E+ Business Partners Program offers custom incentives for electric and natural gas local energy conservation and load management projects in new and retrofit applications including commercial,

institutional, industrial, agricultural, and multi-family residential facilities/systems.

Examples of projects include measures to improve lighting, heating and cooling (HVAC) systems, refrigeration, air handling, and pumping systems. New and retrofit facilities are eligible.

NorthWestern Energy commercial and industrial electric or natural gas supply customers are eligible to participate in this program; Large USB Choice customers are not eligible.

For more information, call toll-free 866-723-8677.



AERO's Repowering Montana: A Blueprint for Homegrown Energy Self-Reliance

details strategies for investing in energy efficiency, in sustainable production of biofuels (both biodiesel and ethanol), and in dispersed wind, small hydro, and solar power systems, and also advocates localizing ownership and control of these energy systems as much as possible. Doing so, say its authors, will keep dollars circulating in our communities (instead of exporting them elsewhere) and will create useful and fulfilling work for our citizens, in both the countryside and in cities.

<http://www.aeromt.org/BLUEPRINT.php>

Question of the Month Is wind energy practical for me?

Small wind energy systems can be used in connection with an electricity transmission and distribution system (called grid-connected systems), or in stand-alone applications that are not connected to the utility grid.

A grid-connected wind turbine can reduce your consumption of utility-supplied electricity for lighting, appliances, and electric heat. If the turbine cannot deliver the amount of energy you need, the utility makes up the difference. When the wind system produces more electricity than the household requires, the excess can be sold to the utility.

With the interconnections available today, switching takes place automatically. Stand-alone wind energy systems can be appropriate for homes, farms, or even entire communities (a co-housing project, for example) that are far from the nearest utility lines. Either type of system can be practical

if the following conditions exist.

Conditions for a stand-alone system

- You live in an area with average annual wind speeds of at least 4.0 meters per second (9 miles per hour).
- A grid connection is not available or can only be made through an expensive extension. The cost of running a power line to a remote site to connect with the utility grid can be prohibitive, ranging from \$15,000 to more than \$50,000 per mile, depending on terrain.
- You have an interest in gaining energy independence from the utility.
- You would like to reduce the environmental impact of electricity production.
- You acknowledge the intermittent nature of wind power and have a strategy for using intermittent

resources to meet your power needs.

Conditions for a grid-connected system

- You live in an area with average annual wind speeds of at least 4.5 meters per second (10 miles per hour).
- Utility-supplied electricity is expensive in your area (about 10 to 15 cents per kilowatt-hour).
- The utility's requirements for connecting your system to its grid are not prohibitively expensive.
- Local building codes or covenants allow you to legally erect a wind turbine on your property.
- You are comfortable with long-term investments.

